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Today's Topics:

 Passed test, what do I do now?

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Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

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(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/ham-digital".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: Mon, 30 Aug 1993 02:56:09 GMT
From: gsm001!gsm001.mendelson.com!gsmlrn@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Passed test, what do I do now?
To: ham-digital@ucsd.edu

In article <mvpCCG2uL.5Cr@netcom.com> mvp@netcom.com (Mike Van Pelt) writes:

>A few weeks ago, I passed the test for Technician No-Code, and the
>examiners sent my application off to FCC Land, where it's currently
>in a holding pattern.

Congadulations, welcome, OM.

>So, while waiting for my license, I'm looking at radios and such.

Do more than look, buy one and listen. Learn how to act (and how not to)
on the radio. Learn the jargon and the protocol.

>Where's a good place to start to find out about what's going on?

Your nearest 2 meter repeater. Or your local ham club. Or look for a house

with lots of antennas, knock on the door and introduce yourself.

Where did you take the test? Try calling the head VE and ask to be pointed in the right direction.

If you are in the Philadelphia area, give me a ring.

>2-meter, naturally, for voice and packet. What about 70cm? 23cm?

2 meter's is a good place to start. I enjoy talking to people on the local repeaters, some packet (haven't quite gotten an IP address for TCP/IP so I just use "regular" packet and working DX on 2 meter SSB.

I also heard MIR (CIS (ex- USSR) space station) on packet today. I missed having my tnc set up so I didn't get to connect. They are on 145.550 (FM) and usually run packet during the week and voice on weekends/holidays. Note that they mean CIS time and holidays, not your local time.

You can talk to them when no-one is around (try 5am or mid week day passes) outdoors with an HT. When things get crowded, you may need a bigger antenna or more power.

I also know a guy that works the satellites regularly. He used a 10 watt out Yaesu ft-726r (until he got a 736r for a ridiculous price and sold me the 726), a discone antenna in his attic for uplink and a 2 meter automobile whip balanced on a barbeque (for the ground plane) sitting on a small balcony.

Every day, rain or shine, bad propagation or good, sun spots or not, the satellites are there. You just need to know when.

The 70 cm is actually 3 bands in one. 420-430 is used for atv (I think), 430-440 is used for CW, SSB, and satellite work, 440-450 is used for FM repeaters.

I've been told that there is a "better class of ham" on 440, but around here, (philadelphia, pa.) it's mostly linked 2 meter repeaters and the same guys as on 2 meters using their new dual band rigs. :-)

I expect there will be more growth on 220 and 902 before 1.2ghz because there is now a "use it before you lose it" urgency on those bands.

>Currently I'm thinking along the lines of a dual band 2m/70cm handheld
>that receives outside the ham bands, and a TNC for packet.

The only problem with that is the out of band receive usually makes the

radio susceptible to intermod. In the city it is a problem, outside it is not.

>What about baud rates? 1200 baud sounds horribly slow to me since I
>have v.32bis on my computer, but the few people I've talked to say 1200
>baud is The Standard for packet. What's the modulation for digital?
>It wouldn't happen to be the same as for phone modems, would it? Could
>I use my regular modem for a TNC?

No, although the 1200 baud modems were based on Bell designs (and equipment) the 2400, 9600 and 19200 are not. You also need specially modified radios for 9600 and above. There is lots of 1200 baud activity, not much 2400 baud, and many 9600 links, but the majority is 1200 baud. If you want high speed stick to landlines.

>What are good handhelds for limited bucks, and which ones should I stay
>away from? (I've seen a number of flames at Kenwood.)

The radio shack htx-202, now on sale for \$200. (I own one, but have no other connection to R/S). I also have an ICOM W2a and a 2sat. I like them all. The 2sat is a good "pocket" rig, It rides the commuter trains with me every day.

>Is there a list of acronyms somewhere? (It took me a while to figure
>out what an "HT" was.)

I've never seen one. Sorry.

Good luck and 73.

Geoff.

P.s. some good habits:

73 is already plural.

Don't use "q" signals on voice (though many hams do).

Don't use "Break" to get into a conversation on a repeater. Although the standard is "Break, break, break" (3 times) for an emergency, many places use one "Break" for emergencies. Just say your COMPLETE call and wait to be acknowledged. If you need to call someone feel free to interrupt a long conversation with "CALL, PLEASE".

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Geoffrey S. Mendelson N30WJ
(215) 242-8712
gsm@mendelson.com or uunet!gsm001!gsm

End of Ham-Digital Digest V93 #24
